

CITY OF BURNS

The Biggest City In The Biggest  
County In The State Of Oregon

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COUNTY OF HARNEY

The Biggest County In The State  
Of Oregon, Best In The West

## Short Course Benefits Harney Co. Farmers

### Attendance Large--Instructors Well Pleased

### Interest Great And Much Enthusiasm Manifest

Harney county farmers have been given an opportunity this week that is not the good fortune of many such sections to receive. The short course in agriculture, animal husbandry and domestic science that was brought right to their homes was unique. It is something that has never been done before in the history of the United States—a complete short course held away from the regular colleges. It is a distinction worthy of note and highest appreciation. Harney county has the first high school to put in a complete course of study along these lines and local people are to profit by it. The general advancement of the country warrants the outlay and the individual farmer who took advantage of it is going home with a much better understanding of his present condition, that is a much clearer understanding of his particular line of work, what he can profitably raise and the right methods to pursue.

No man who did not attend this course can realize the importance of it or the benefits. It is absolutely essential to his success to have the knowledge imparted to him during the past week as the professional man who must follow his line of work. It has shown that farming is not a haphazard vocation but a science. That in order to be successful the farmer must have the right methods to pursue.

The class to take advantage of the course was much larger than had been hoped for. The attendance increased from the beginning and today finds the largest attendance of farmers ever gathered in Burns for any occasion. There were doubting ones at the beginning of the course but before the finish each individual realized it was not theoretical but entirely within the grasp of the farmer. Economy was taught in every respect. Suggestions followed questions of such character that would be more or less expensive how to avoid big expenditures to secure results.

Prof. Scudder took up soils the first day and discussed the formation. His talk was followed by demonstration of analysis.

The soils of this section were examined and discussed thoroughly. He followed this from day to day with other subjects making dry farming the particular object as he realizes this method of farming requires special study.

In the course in soils Prof. Scudder discussed the origin of the soils of Harney county. The

work during the past week as it could not do it with justice to the subjects covered, yet it would be of vast benefit to those who found it impossible to attend. The discussions, demonstrations, laboratory work and illustrated lectures were right to the point and particularly applicable to Harney county. Every question considered was complete and made entirely plain to those attending.

One gray haired man, one of many that age, said it was the most beneficial "primary class" he had ever witnessed at work. Every question was answered in a thorough manner. It was made plain and gone over until every farmer understood it.

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composition as effecting value and production; the four components that make up soils: sands, silt, clay and organic matter—the qualities, good and bad of each component, the proportions found in the different types of soil throughout the county. Samples were on hand from various section including Catlow Valley, Harriman, Sunset, Harney Valley proper, Silver Creek, etc. He took up the effect of the different proportions of components upon the fertility, upon the kind of crops to be grown, upon moisture conservation, methods of tillage and management.

The farmers, stockmen and homesteaders were then given a laboratory session in soil judging, each one examining and estimating the composition of the various samples of soil types. This was followed later in the week by each farmer judging the soil of his own land in cases where samples were brought in.

This lesson was followed by another laboratory session in which practical testing of alfalfa and different grains was carried out by the farmers and examination of weed seeds alfalfa impurities was made. High quality seed in dry farming operations is absolutely essential and the laboratory work in testing has convinced the farmers of the enormous losses suffered through the use of inferior seed and how easily seed may be tested and this loss avoided. The interest in the laboratory work, although the facilities are not what they should be, was so great that the farmers returned to the empty hall after the sessions were over to continue the tests by themselves.

The following quoted paragraphs are from various lectures of Prof. Scudder during the week:

"The Harney county soils are good, physically for moisture conservation; chemically, as to the plant food supply. Success depends upon the farmer. The forms of soil moisture—a

careful explanation of capillary film moisture particularly—its paramount importance to the dry farmer since it is this form that supplies crops during dry weather. The movements of moisture in the soil, the reason for them and the control of the same through tillage for maintaining a dry loose soil mulch 3 to 4 inches in depth throughout the spring and summer. The greater value of a fine cloddy mulch rather than a dust mulch.

Demonstration of capillary movements in the different soils of Harney county and how this movement is stopped by layers of loose matter such as clods and heavy stubble turned the furrow slice, or gravel seams, preventing moisture reaching the root area.

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"Movement of capillary moisture in the soil to the surface where it is lost through evaporation is precisely like the movement of oil from the reservoir in the lamp up through the wick to the flame where it is burned away. Cut the wick in two between the reservoir and the flame and the movement stops—the burning away ceases. Introduce a loose layer of soil—a soil mulch between the moisture stored in the soil and the sun and wind that evaporate it and capillary action is stopped, the enormous loss through evaporation ceases."

No less interesting was the work of Prof. Potter in his talks on stock. The judging hours were of particular interest to local stock men and his lectures each afternoon were practical. Perhaps the most particular points touched in the discussion was the advantages of the farmer on the dry area along the line of horse raising—and other stock too for that matter—but the point we wish to take up here is the horses. Prof. Potter made the assertion that the dry farmer of Central Oregon had a distinct advantage for raising horses on account of more or less open range that would not be utilized for years. The native pasture stubble and forage more or less unsaleable would be at his command. Another feature in this respect was the fact that he needs just the class of horses for his own use as are the best sellers. The draft horse always has a good sale and since it is necessary for the dry farmer to do his work at the particular time conditions are right he needs motive power. By using a good grade draft mare instead of geldings or mules he not only accomplishes the work but has a revenue producing power rather than an expense. While it may take a few more mares than geldings or mules, they are bringing in a profit at the same time. Prof. Potter noted that the farmers of the Umatilla, Wasco and Sherman county sections had made better money than most farmers along this line as they have more or less horses to turn off each year.

(Continued on Second Page)

Thursday afternoon was spent at the Bell A Ranch of Wm. Hanley in judging beef. Almost the entire class made the trip in autos and rigs, local people taking four horse teams to accommodate the outside visitors. This

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One On Prof. Scudder

Prof. Scudder was very interesting in his discussions of beef feeding. He says this section has particular climatic conditions that make it ideal for beef feeding. We are going to raise more hay and the secret of success along this line is the judicious handling of the product. We are going to turn off better beef here on hay alone than many less fortunately adapted sections on grain. He realizes that as cultivation increases the range area is going to decrease but not entirely. We are always going to have more or less range and hay when properly irrigated, the alfalfa and a little grain we are fortunately situated along this line of production. Prof. Potter says with alfalfa and clover hay we do not require any grain to finish beef. The native hay will not put on flesh as rapidly as the others mentioned, and it will take more of it, but beef fed on wild hay will not shrink as much as the alfalfa fed stock when shipped. The dry farmer is going to raise some stock for beef and will get his hay from the irrigated farm, while the latter will take some of the former's grain to finish his stuff if he wants to rush it.

According to Prof. Potter the essential point in beef feeding is to make the best of the forage. Every inducement must be given the beef steer to eat hay. He needs about 40 lbs a day and he should be humored to eat it. On alfalfa hay beef may be finished quickly and to best advantage with a small ration of 5 or 6 lbs. of grain. With wild hay as the main forage it will require a little more grain but the maximum would be 10 lbs. in this case. However, his advise is to make the hay count.

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